**William Shakespeare**

**By:** Melissa Benson

Today William Shakespeare is a world renounced poetic writer; he has written 37 plays, about 154 sonnets and his plays today have been made into huge motion pictures.

Back in the 1500’s, birthdays and deaths weren’t as recorded as they are today. William’s speculated birthday is argued to be on April 23, which so happens to be St. George’s Day but the actual date and year is still unknown.

He was born in his hometown of Stratford-upon-Avon and was baptized in the parish Church Holy Trinity of Stratford upon Avon 26 April 1564. Shakespeare died on April 23, 1616; He was the third born child of eight children and the eldest surviving son of his parents John Shakespeare *(c1530-1601)* and Mary Arden *(c1540-1608)*.

William Shakespeare Married 26 year old Anne Hathaway at the age of 18, they were issued a marriage licence on November 27, 1582 from the consistory court of the Diocese of Worcester.

The arranged ceremonies may have been hasty, considering the marriage banns were only read once not the traditional three times by the Worcester Chancellor. The reason behind the rushed marriage may have been because of the celibacy between William and Anne, given that six months after they were wed she gave birth to a beautiful daughter named Susanna, Susanna was then baptized on May 26, 1583. Later on in years they had dizygotic twins, an intelligent son Hamnet and a beautiful daughter Judith, about two years later they twins were baptized on February 2, 1583.

Even as William adds tragedy to his poems/plays/sonnets he may have got inspiriting from the hard times in his life to add into his tragic plays. At the young age of 11 his beloved son Hamnet died of unknown causes and was buried on August 11, 1596.

William Shakespeare brought his fellow actors together when he found their company was in great disagreement with their landlords. They decided to tear down the theatre and use the pieces to create the famous Globe Theatre, the only structure of its kind to be constructed for the actors by the actors of William’s time. The Globe theatre was opened in autumn of 1599 with the play Julius Caesar as one of the first plays and some plays written after it was opened were written just to be heard in the great theatre.

Tragedy struck the hearts of the people in the theatre on June 29th 1613, when the great Globe Theatre went up in a huge roar of flames during the performance of Henry the eight by a miss fired cannon. William’s beloved theatre was rebuilt the next year but sad events brought the theatre to close in 1642, by the Puritans who closed every theatre in London. The Globe Theatre was torn down in 1644, to make room for marketable real-estate or as they called it tenements.

**The Play**

The play Macbeth, written by William Shakespeare, falls under the category of a tragic play.

**Introduction**

The play starts off with the three witches planning what they are going to say to Macbeth. Macbeth is introduced as the Brave and Valiant fighter and once Banquo and Macbeth run into the witches Macbeths mind starts racing with excitement to be king. Quote: “Thane of Glamis!”, “Thane of Cawdor!” and “King hereafter” is what the three witches had prophesied over him.

The Raising action happened when Macbeth meets with King Duncan and receives his new appointed title and the very devoted Banquo acquires nothing. The King states how much he trusted the prior “Thane of Cawdor” and then announces that King Duncan’s son, Malcolm will be the new prince of Cumberland. Macbeth takes Malcolm as a treat and desperately is going to take that crown for himself no matter what.

The King decided they should go celebrate at Macbeth’s castle so he sent a letter to his wife telling her all about the three witches prophesies and about how he will become king by killing King Duncan. She feared he couldn’t kill the king though due to his of compassion and loyalty to the king. She cried out to the God’s asking them to remove his kindness and leave it with Vicious, merciless hate for the king.

Once King Duncan arrives at Macbeths castle Lady Macbeth performed as the Perfect hostess and the king yearends to speak with his “Thane of Cawdor” who is Macbeth’s new found title.

Macbeth wrestles with his self on whether he should kill King Duncan or if he doesn’t how then he gets the crown... “To kill or not to kill, that is the question.” Macbeth decides not to kill him but Lady Macbeth pressures him into it the murder by saying she would take away her love for him which easily makes Macbeth kill King Duncan.

**Rising action**

Banquo and his only son Fleance enter Macbeths castle and banquo discusses with Macbeth about how he is deeply trouble by what the three witches had stated. Macbeth pretends he didn’t take them seriously but does dare not tell Banquo about this plan to kill King Duncan.

Lady Macbeth was supported to kill the King but he resembled her father to much it brought back her fawn memories of her dad.

Macbeth learns from Banquo that King Duncan is asleep and he goes and kills the king, Lady Macbeth drugs the guards which aid in Macbeths success in murdering the King.

**Climax**

The Two guards realize that Duncan is murdered and they cried out what had happened. Lady Macbeth tells her husband that the evidence is placed and that the guilt will wash away with a little water.

Once everyone in Macbeth’s castle learned of the death of King Duncan Lady Macbeth faints and Macbeth in a frenzy kills of guards that obviously killed Cumberland’s precious King.

The act of Loyalty takes away any suspicion towards Macbeth and Lady Macbeth about the death of King Duncan. Due to the fear for their life Malcolm flea’s for England and Donalbain flea’s for Ireland.

Since Duncan’s children fled the country leaving Macbeth to be the new allotted King of Scotland.

An old man discusses with Ross who illustrates different acts that were happening in Scotland which becomes the most vital scene for story about the war that people start to get when they want power.

Plus it becomes the very fundamental part of the play with expressive of the death of King Duncan and the frequent argument throughout the entire act’s in this play. While this is all happening its Macbeth’s coronation and Macduff insulted Macbeth’s becoming king, which later on he becomes Macbeth’s downfall.

**Falling Action**

Banquo’s suspicions about the three witches prophecies are becoming more and more apparent and he starts questioning his friends actions during the prophecies to see if he indeed did kill king Duncan or played helped the villains so he can become king.

When Banquo met with Macbeth he was constantly questioned about his and his sons travel plans during the discussion he fears that Banquo’s sons will be the new heirs of the thrown.

Macbeth becomes paranoid and arranges for several highly trained murderers to kill of Banquo and his son Fleance to guarantee that his sons will become heirs and not banquo’s.

Lady Macbeth tries to comfort her guilt ridden husband in privet; they thought the guilt would have vanished by now because of the excitement of the crown and Lady Macbeth attempts to support her husband in his difficult state. Throughout this time, Macbeth got word from the assassins that Banquo was murdered but Fleance fought back and escaped and has now arrived at the door.

Macbeth realizes that his descendants won’t become kings because of his actions with Banquo and Fleance.

During the party at Macbeth’s castle Macbeth see’s Banquo’s ghost and causes a fiasco, to not question Macbeth’s sanity or their part in the killing, Lady Macbeth ends the party early but a guest questions it and Macbeth give’s his legendary speech.

The witches master Hecate enlightens the three witches concerning Macbeth not being appreciative of his new found position and they come up with a plan to use their prophecy against Macbeth.

On top of the supernatural plot, we learn from Lennox and a Lord who are joining there army’s in England to fight Macbeth for his kingdom.

The prophesy which are scaring Macbeth (Quote)”Beware Macduff/ Beware Thane of Fife” “None of women born shall harm Macbeth”, and that tells nothing to fear until “Great birnam wood moves to high Dunsinane hill”

Macbeth makes a huge decision to protect himself by deciding to kill Macduff, then he demands to know about Banquo’s Descendants learning that they will still rule Scotland infuriated him, Macbeth then learns of that Macduff cannot be killed so instead he wipes out his entire family.

Lady Macduff chatted with Ross about being abandoned by Macduff and doesn’t understand why he fled, Ross then leaves her to speak with her son alone.

Once Lady Macduff informs her son that his father is a traitor and is dead a messenger arrives and tells Macduff to flea just as assassins arrive to kill Macduff’s son.

As Malcolm and Macduff criticise Macbeth’s rule over Scotland and how it has plummeted into great anguish. Then Malcolm and Macduff test each other to see whether they are fit to be kings, they learn Macduff is are not, and find out that a great army is being formed to wipe out Macbeth’s rein.

**Ending**

We learn Lady Macbeth is sleep walking and talking to herself from Doctor and Gentlewomen, then Lady Macbeth announces her famous speech about how she cannot clean the blood from her hands (Guilt from her hands) and that the fracas with herself has failed.

As Macbeth prepares to fight and fortify his castle, at Dunsinane his enemies gather for the great battle and also learn that Macbeths power in Scotland is absent.

Armed with his Prophecy to not be defeated until the nearby “Birnam wood moves” Macbeth learns of the very strong ten thousand army men against him, he prepares to fight his enemies holding on to the prophecy’s at hand for relieve.

Malcolm and his loyal troops cut down branches from the Birnam Wood using it as camouflage and head off to Macbeth’s castle...

Macbeth laughs off the numbers but once he realizes that the prophecy is coming true he begins to see his life flash before his eyes.

A Lady cries out to him and explains that Lady Macbeth is dead, Macbeth brushes off the news of his dearest any lack of remorse or respect for her.

As Malcolm’s men charge into battle drop their camouflage Macbeth fights Siward murdering him.

Now he is faced with Macduff a man he refuses to fight, Macbeth elucidates that his life is magically enchanted with favour and no one “born of a women” can kill him.

Macduff laughs an clarifies that he is born by what is known today as a Caesarean section they fight and he kills Macbeth and Malcolm is now crowned the new King of Scotland...

**Conflict, Man vs. Himself**

There is allot of conflict on this story, but the most important one I think is Macbeth verses himself once his own doubts and misconceptions about the prophecies told by the three witches becomes apparent in the story.

**Modern Related Movie**

The movie the Lion King is based partially on the book Macbeth.

The King Mufasa gets murdered by Scare, Simba is tricked into thinking that he himself had done it when really scare had been the one who killed him. Scare becomes king and they go into a horrible depression, no food, no water and no mercy from scare. With the help from Timon and Pumba, Simba regains his “A coona mata ta “ and sets off to over throw his uncle Scar from being king and he then is crowned king.

Mufasa – King Duncan

Scare – Macbeth

Simba – Malcolm (plus, Get’s blamed for being the murders of his father) as might be Macduff

Rifiki – Herate (Goddess head witch)

Timon- Lennox

Pumbaa- Ross

Zazu –Porter

Hyena (Shenzi, Banzai and Sarabi) – Three Witches

Sarabi – Lady Macbeth/ Duncan (Not in the real play)

Nala – Lady Macolm (not in the real play)

I know the lion king is based off of Shakespeare’s book Hamlet, but there are a few really good similarities between the two.

1. That scare kills the king and blames it on someone else.
2. That the king’s son’s thinks he did it, so in shame flea’s the country.
3. Scare becomes king; the land goes into turmoil because of his rein.
4. Simba regains his pride and returns to the kingdom, over rules scare and regains the kingdom.

The differences between the two stories are pretty difference when you begin to look at them.

1. Some of the people from the book don’t match up to the cast
2. The focus on the whole story is towards the son Simba (Malcolm) not around Scare (Macbeth).
3. The story comes across as friendly for children and not as gruesome as the real story about Macbeth.
4. The hero’s in the play are set out to be good vs. evil, when in the book it’s Evil vs. good.

(Quote taken from) http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0110357/plotsummary

“A young lion prince is born in Africa, thus making his uncle Scar the second in line to the throne. Scar plots with the hyenas to kill King Mufasa and Prince Simba, thus making himself King. The King is killed and Simba is led to believe by Scar that it was his fault, and so flees the kingdom in shame. After years of exile he is persuaded to return home to overthrow the usurper and claim the kingdom as his own thus completing the "Circle of Life".

Looking through the internet, in 1994, an American animated television series created by a renowned writer and former English teacher, Greg Weisman created the show called ***Gargoyles.*** The whole story of the Gargoyles is more based on Macbeth than the Lion King, and brings out the story of Macbeth through different trials and experiences through present day times. This cartoon becomes so popular that its hype inspired the movie “The hunchback of Notre Dame” into production.

**Continued Discussion of Play**

The tragic events that happen around Macbeth’s life is quite interesting, the fact that the witches could use real life to influence Macbeth into trusting them and then once they felt he didn’t appreciate them, they used someone else as a pawn to eliminate him. William did a very excellent job in writing the play “Macbeth”; he was able to come across lots of angles to make the story more interesting for the reader.

**Character Analysis**

Macbeth (Main Character)

In this story Macbeth he has a few excellent and awful Character traits, here are the ones that I felt were most suited towards what he did throughout the story.

*Traits of Macbeth*

Loyalty

Betrayal

Dishonesty

Courage

Perseverance

He uses most of these in the play when first he has his *loyalty* to the king, then once he meets the witches he *betrays* the king by killing him, he’s *dishonest* when he lies about who does it and frames them, *courageous* in battle for the amount that he has done with his new army and the old king Duncan’s army, and has *perseverance* because he worked towards being the king despite the odds.